

Thesis 1 - Week 2

What questions were you thinking this week?

This week I was taking a step back from the direction of my concept, and started asking more simple questions: Who gets left behind in cyberspace? Before I can ask what it looks like to regain agency and sovereignty in cyberspace, I need to understand it as a space like any other that is vulnerable to social underrepresentation and inequity. I decided to ask: Who was left behind at the beginning of the digital age? How does cyberspace mimic physical space in terms of how it is colonized?

What have you explored, discovered, noticed, or realized through your research so far? Has anything surprised you?*

There is so much content related to identity in cyberspace, varying in outlook, intersectionality, angle, etc. Cyberfeminism is a well-studied concept, and I find it interesting how apparent feminism is in conversations about social justice across all platforms. There seems to be a direct correlation between visibility of underrepresented groups in physical space, social hierarchies, and now in cyberspace.

What else did you work on this week? (Free writing)*

Paralleling cyberspace to physical space makes it easier to relate to in every sense, however, I'm still trying to wrap my head around what it means to be excluded from one and not the other. I found some more intimate work on identity in cyberspace, and it actually helped me bridge the abstract research to the personal sensation. Our identities may seem insignificant, but of course, they shape the communities we associate with, things we

care about, places we reside in, etc. I hadn't considered that our physical identities are quite fixed, whereas our digital identities are malleable and can be disconnected with our physical ones. I'm trying to investigate how that impacts the roles we adopt in cyberspace.

Add at least **3 links** to people, readings, videos, images, tutorials, libraries, inspirations, or other references you found related to your topic.

[Technodiversity as the key to digital decolonization](#)

- Comparison of my concept to that of colonialism visible through geopolitical lense
- Necessity for building plural, sustainable, locally-rooted alternatives to Big Tech's dominant, uniform model
- Examples of alternative models: Indigenous Data Sovereignty initiatives, the non-aligned technology movement, community network projects across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and open-access scientific publishing platforms like Redalyc and SciELO

[Live in Reality](#) by FEIXUE

- Personal identity getting lost in cyberspace
- Where is the line between digital and physical in terms of identity? Is your online persona actually an extension of your physical body if it impacts your reality?

[Nancy Patterson, Cyberfeminism, 1996](#)

- Fundamental absence of 'cyberfeminists' in early internet age
- Her predictions lay the groundwork for the politics of cyberspace and the ways it would be weaponized to produce social capital as an extension of existing research and resources